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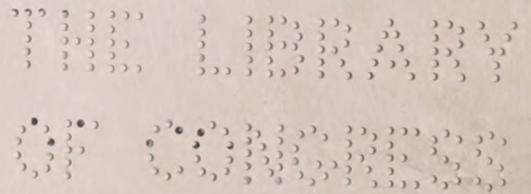
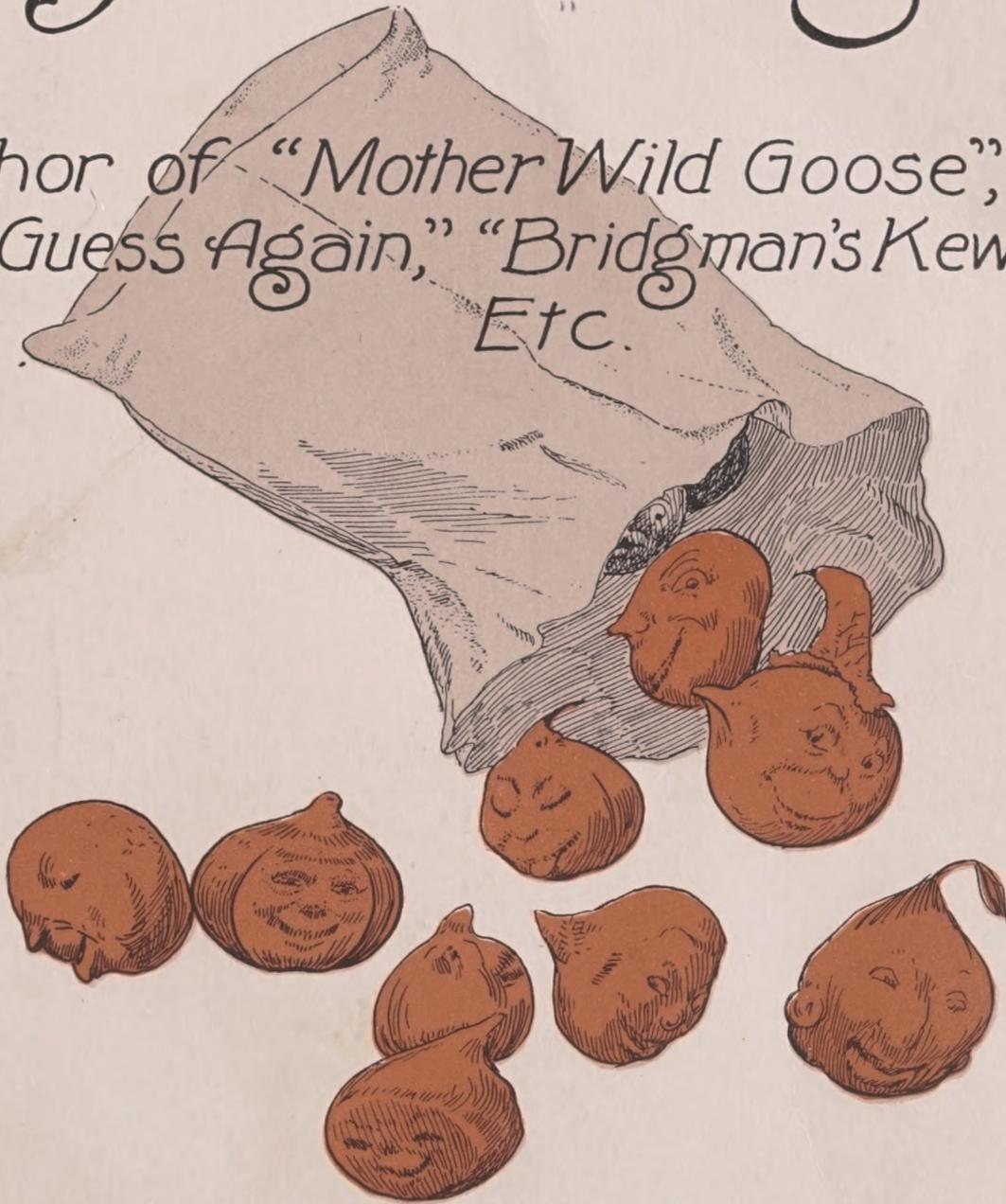


Taste  
and Try  
before  
you Buy

# Jest-nuts

By L. J. Bridgman

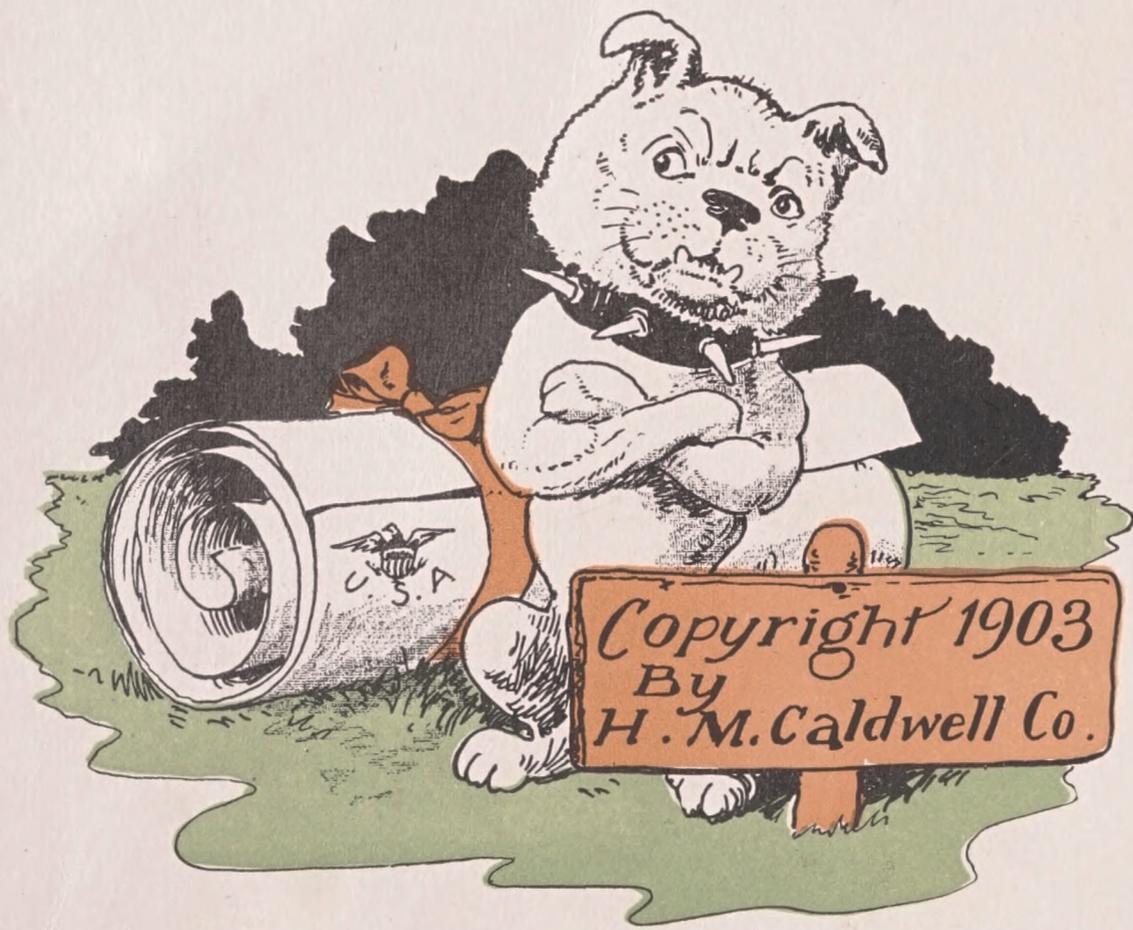
Author of "Mother Wild Goose", "Guess"  
"Guess Again," "Bridgman's Kewts"  
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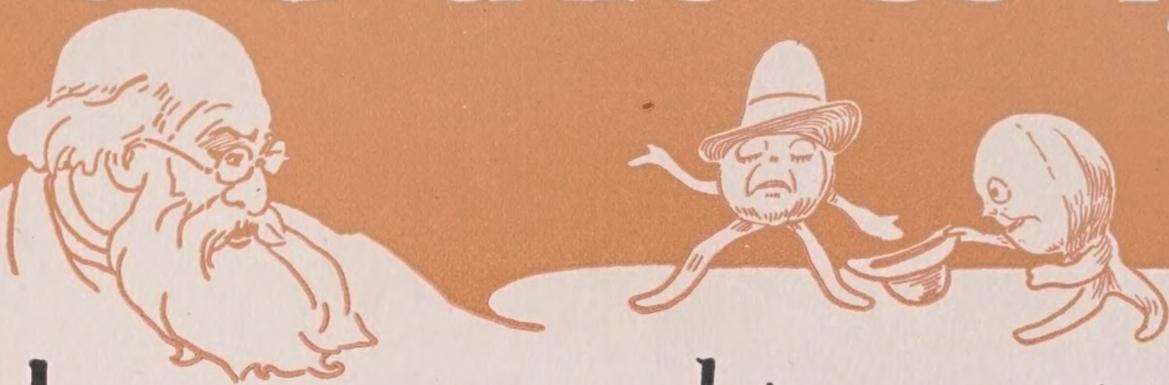
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WORLD  
SERIES

# In-tro-duc-to-ry.



**T**here was once a lot more wisdom  
**T**han one well could carry 'round,  
**S**o they puzzled how to keep it  
**T**ill, at last, this way was found:  
**I**t was crowded into nutshells,  
**P**hi-lo-soph-i-cal-ly packed,  
**A**nd you can't tell what's inside them  
**T**ill the nutshells have been cracked.  
**N**ow these packed up words are proverbs  
**A**nd they're cracked by many folks.  
**I**f you're careful when you crack them,  
**Y**ou will find you're cracking jokes.

“Many hands make light work.”



**H**ow silly! With one  
finger, you  
May press a but-  
ton merely,  
And cause electric  
light to work.  
Why should folks  
talk so queerly?

# Many hands make light work?



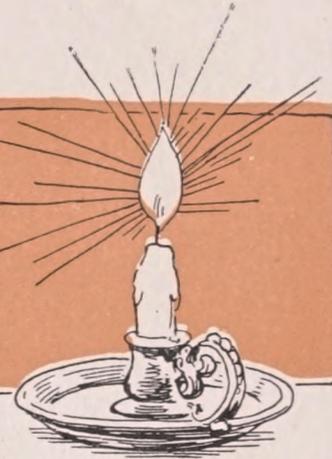
“It is never too late to mend.”

When the bear and the seal,  
in their automobile,  
Took a spin at the world's  
frozen end,  
Said the bear, “Something queer  
ails the old steering gear,  
But 'tis never too late to mend.”  
Soon there came a loud crash  
and a terrible smash  
On some ice at the edge of the sea,  
And the seal and the bear  
swam and wondered just where  
Under water their carriage  
might be.

It is never too late to  
mend?



“The burnt child dreads  
the fire.”



When July fourth  
draws to its close,  
And yet a cracker  
lingers,  
Is any patriot going to  
stop  
Because he burned  
his fingers?

The burnt child dreads  
the fire ?



“Paddle your own canoe.”

**M**r. Squirrel afloat, with  
a twig for a boat,  
Got along without paddling  
or rowing,

For his tail in the air was a  
sail for him there,

When the favoring breezes  
were blowing.

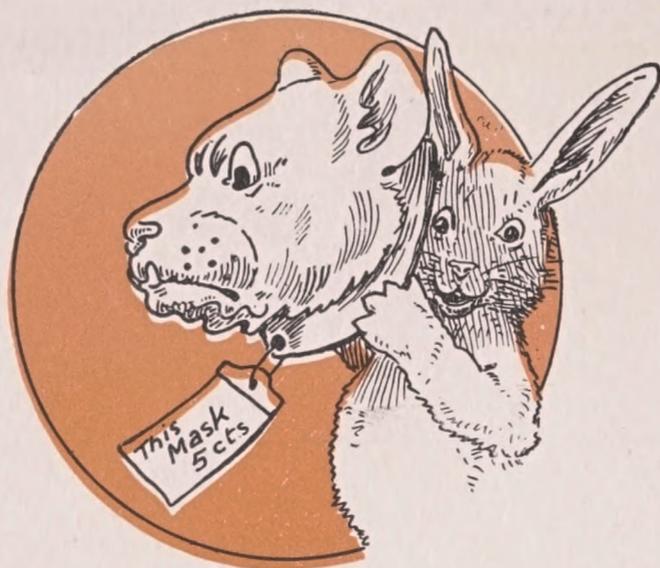
So he sang, “Yoho! ’Tis the  
style, you know,

To go yachting, so, bless you, I do.  
If there’s any wee gale, then  
just hoist up your sail  
And *don’t* paddle your own canoe!”

# Paddle your own canoe ?



“Appearances are deceitful.”



Watch the juggler on  
the stage.

Why do the people roar so?  
Appearance may deceitful be,  
But disappearance more so!

Here's a rabbit in a hat.

Cover him up neatly.  
Presto! Now the rabbit's  
gone!  
Disappeared completely!

Disappearances are deceitful.



“The early bird catches the worm.”



“I met the early bird  
to-day,  
A wounded worm  
once said,  
“The early worm is  
caught by birds!  
Wise worms will  
stay in bed!”

The early bird catches the worm. What does the early worm catch?



“Where ignorance is bliss,  
'tis folly to be wise.”

When Johnny Bear came  
down to camp,  
He tried to steal the kettle,  
But oh! he dropped it very  
quick,  
So hot was that same metal.

“Where ignorance is bliss,”  
exclaimed  
Miss Annie Bear, his sister,  
“Poor Johnny, people often find  
’Tis folly makes a blister!”

Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis  
folly to be wise ?



“He laughs best who  
laughs last.”



**S**ammy cracks his little joke;  
Tommy laughs at once.  
Johnny doesn't see the joke  
Because he is a dunce.  
When Johnny sees the joke  
and laughs,  
Perhaps a fortnight after,  
He laughs the last, but why  
should his  
Be any better laughter?

He laughs best who  
laughs last?





While there's life there's hope?



“You can't eat your cake  
and have it”

**W**ell, perhaps you don't remem-  
ber

When one little piece of cake  
Seemed too small to share  
with others,

Yet boys followed in your wake,  
Saying, “Just a bite! Aw! Greedy!”

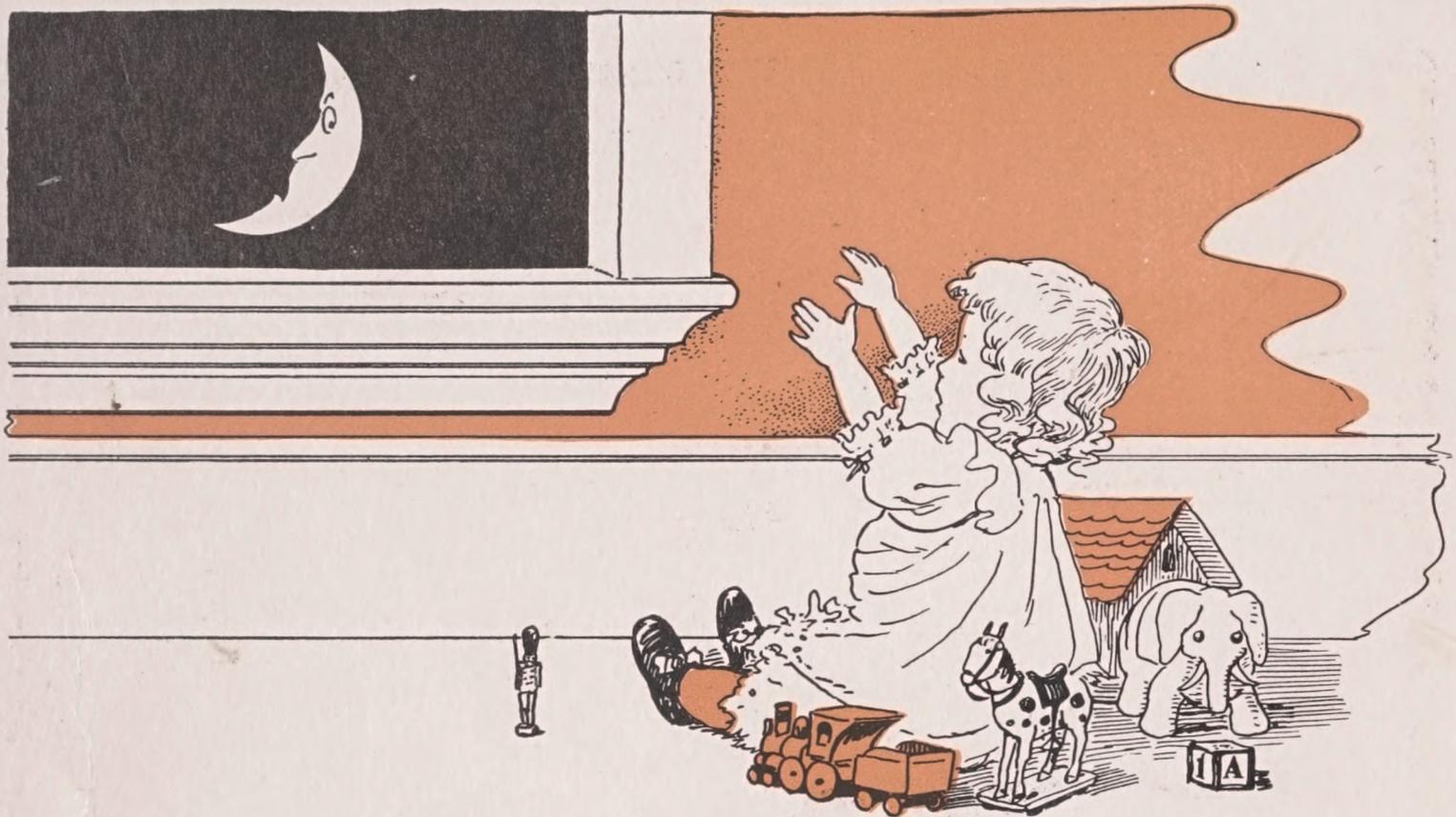
As they tagged you through  
the town,

And you couldn't feel you had it  
Till 'twas safely swallow-  
ed down.

You can't eat your cake  
and have it ?



“The more we have, the  
more we want.”



**O**f bumps and thumps  
And dumps and mumps,  
Well, well, it beats the Dutch  
If you want more  
Of these bad four,  
Or more of any such!

The more we have, the  
more we want?



“A bird in the hand is  
worth two in the bush.”



Said the chickadee,  
“Nonsense!”  
And added, “Absurd!  
I’ll leave the whole question  
To any old bird;  
For a bird in the bush  
Can get little bugs  
crawling;  
A bird in the hand, —  
Oh! It’s simply appalling!”

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush?



“Straws show which way  
the wind blows.”



**O**h! Straws show bet-  
ter things than that,  
As drug-store people  
know;  
They show where ice-  
cream sodas and  
Some other good  
things go.

Straws show which way  
the wind blows ?



“All’s well that ends well.”



“Oh dear, no!” said the squirrel,  
“I end well enough,”  
And he looked at his tail  
Of a beautiful fluff,  
“But the nutshell I swallowed  
Is hurting, inside.  
I am quite far from well  
Though my tail is my  
pride.”

All's well that ends well ?



“A great mark is soon hit.”

The moon rose full, be-  
hind the trees,  
Observed by Captain Biddle.  
“Make ready, boys,” he shout-  
ed then,  
“And shoot that through  
the middle!”  
He thought it was the camp  
fire of  
The enemy, but oh!  
Although the mark was  
big enough,  
They fired much too low.

A great mark is  
soon hit?



“Children should be seen,  
not heard.”



**T**he rooster loudly, proudly  
crowed

His boys did too, that morning.

“You children should be seen,  
not heard,”

He gave them speedy warning

But Mrs. Hen, with flattering ways,

Said, “Oh! my dear, unless

They practice now they’ll nev-  
er learn

To crow like you, I guess.”

Children should be seen,  
not heard?



“Everything comes to him  
who waits.”



The waiter gets his  
fee, of course,  
But still, not everything.  
There's something left  
to pay for what  
The waiter has to bring.

Everything comes to him  
who waits?



“Never trouble trouble till  
trouble troubles you.”



**W**hat! Never trouble trouble  
Till trouble troubles you?

Now isn't that a selfish,

Very selfish thing to do?

When some trouble troubles

Tristram,

When, perhaps, he stubs

his toe,

I must trouble Tristram's

trouble

Till that trouble has to go.

Never trouble trouble till  
trouble troubles you ?



“Turn about is fair play.”



Said a cute little  
donkey, “I say,  
Turn about is regarded  
fair play;  
It is your turn to drag on  
This squeaky old wagon.”  
His master replied, “Not  
to-day.”

Turn about is fair play?



“What can't be cured  
must be endured”

Said the smiling alligator  
To the bashful little rabbit,  
“Ah! I can't be cured of biting,  
So you must endure my  
habit.”

But the rabbit said, “Oh,  
no sir!”

In a very hurried way,  
“Such unpleasant allegations!  
Oh! Excuse me, but —  
good day!”

What can't be cured  
must be endured ?



“Uneasy lies the head that  
wears a crown.”



**I**f one must wear his  
hat to bed,  
Its crown won't both-  
er him  
One half as much, I'm  
very sure,  
As will the lumpy  
brim.

Uneasy lies the head that  
wears a crown?



“Too much of a good thing  
is worse than none at all.”



“It’s raining cats and dogs,”  
they say,  
And if ’twere really true,  
Why that would make too  
many pets  
For those who like a few.  
I’d rather ’twould rain pussy cats  
And dogs, for half a day,  
Than never own a little dog  
Or see a kitten play.

Too much of a good thing  
is worse than none at all?



“Boys will be boys.”



**T**hat boys are boys  
We know. What then?  
Boys being boys,  
They will be men.

Boys will be boys ?



“Taste and try before you buy”



“Oh, taste and try before  
you buy!”

Called out the candy man,  
And forty hands of twenty  
boys

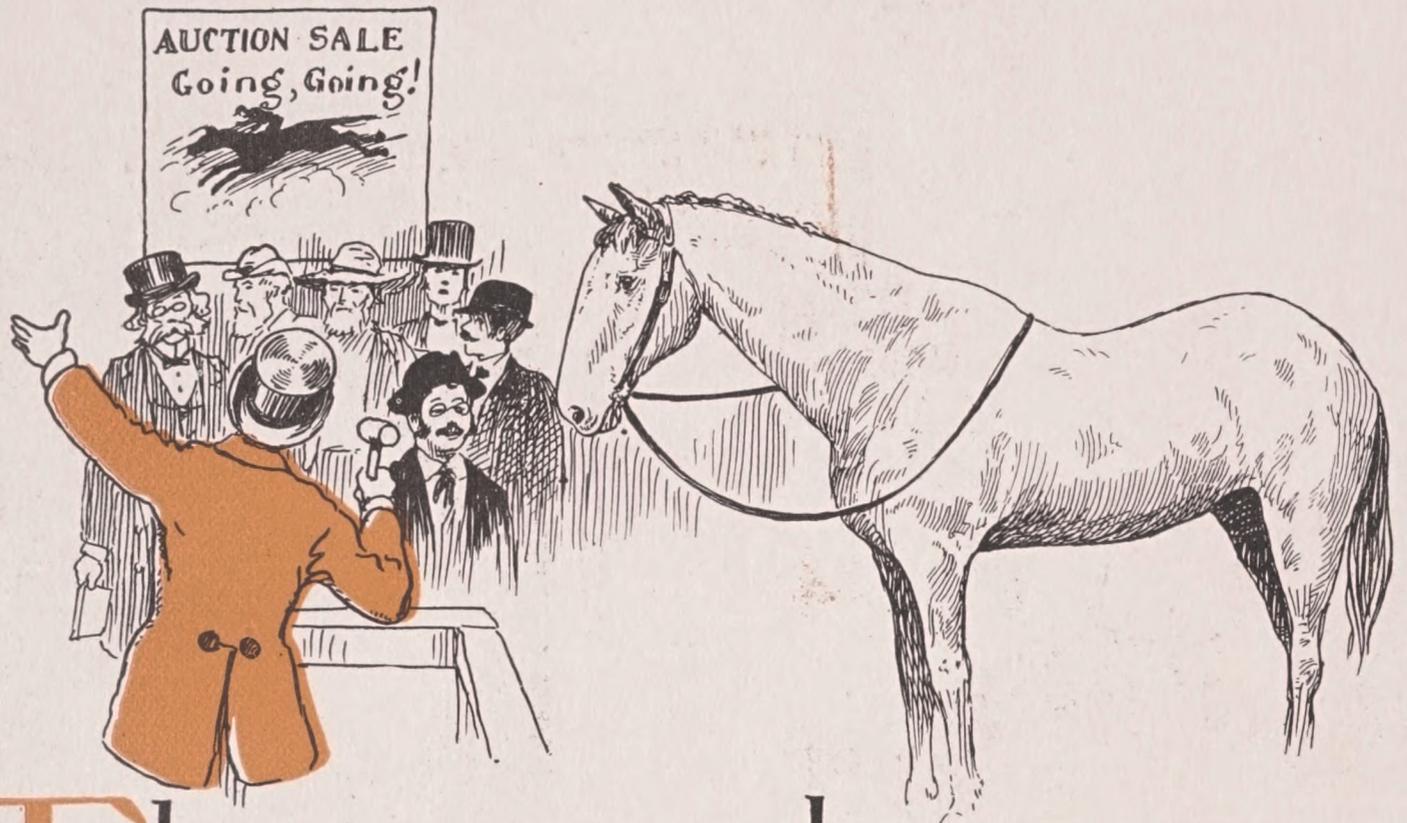
Reached for each candy pan;  
And when the twenty boys  
had tried,

The candy man said, “Well,  
Now you have tried before you buy,  
There’s nothing left to sell!”

Taste and try  
before you buy?



“Money makes the mare go.”



The man who owns  
the mare now speaks,  
“Oats! Hay! New har-  
ness! Oh!  
I’m getting poorer every  
day!  
The mare makes mon-  
ey go!”



Wanted  
at once

More  
Oats

New  
Stall

New  
Shoes

New  
Harness

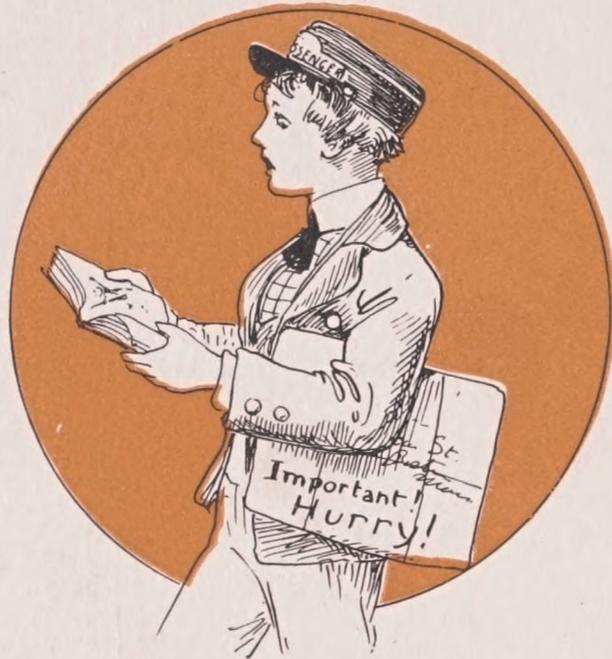
Manger

Gold

Silver

Bridle

“If you wish a thing done,  
go; if not, send.”



**T**hat might have  
done in ancient days,  
But hardly in our own.  
We need not go or  
send when we  
Can simply telephone.

If you wish a thing done  
go; if not, send ?



“Never put off till to-mor-  
row what you can do to-day.”



**I** can paint father's hat  
a most beautiful red;  
There's a fine can of  
paint I could borrow;  
Would you really advise  
me to do it to-day,  
Or to keep putting off  
till to-morrow?

Never put off till to-mor-  
row what you can do to-day?



“Delays are dangerous.”



“Delays are dangerous,  
you know,”

The bee buzzed near and far.  
She told the cow and then  
the man  
Who ran the electric car.

The cow then galloped  
blindly on;  
The motor man went quicker;  
The car took bossy on  
its front,  
Which made the people snicker.

Delays are dangerous ?



“Those who live in glass houses  
should not throw stones.”



I would rather the people  
who live in glass houses  
Threw stones at the per-  
sons who pass,  
If the stones could be dia-  
monds rubies or opals  
Or something more pre-  
cious than glass.

Those who live in glass houses should not throw stones?



“Silence gives consent.”

**T**he partridge is not  
talkative,  
He neither sings nor  
hums;  
He never shouts aloud  
like boys,  
Although they say he  
drums.  
I asked him once to dinner,  
but  
He never said a word.  
“Ah! Silence gives consent,”  
said I,  
But off he flew, shy bird!

# Silence gives consent?

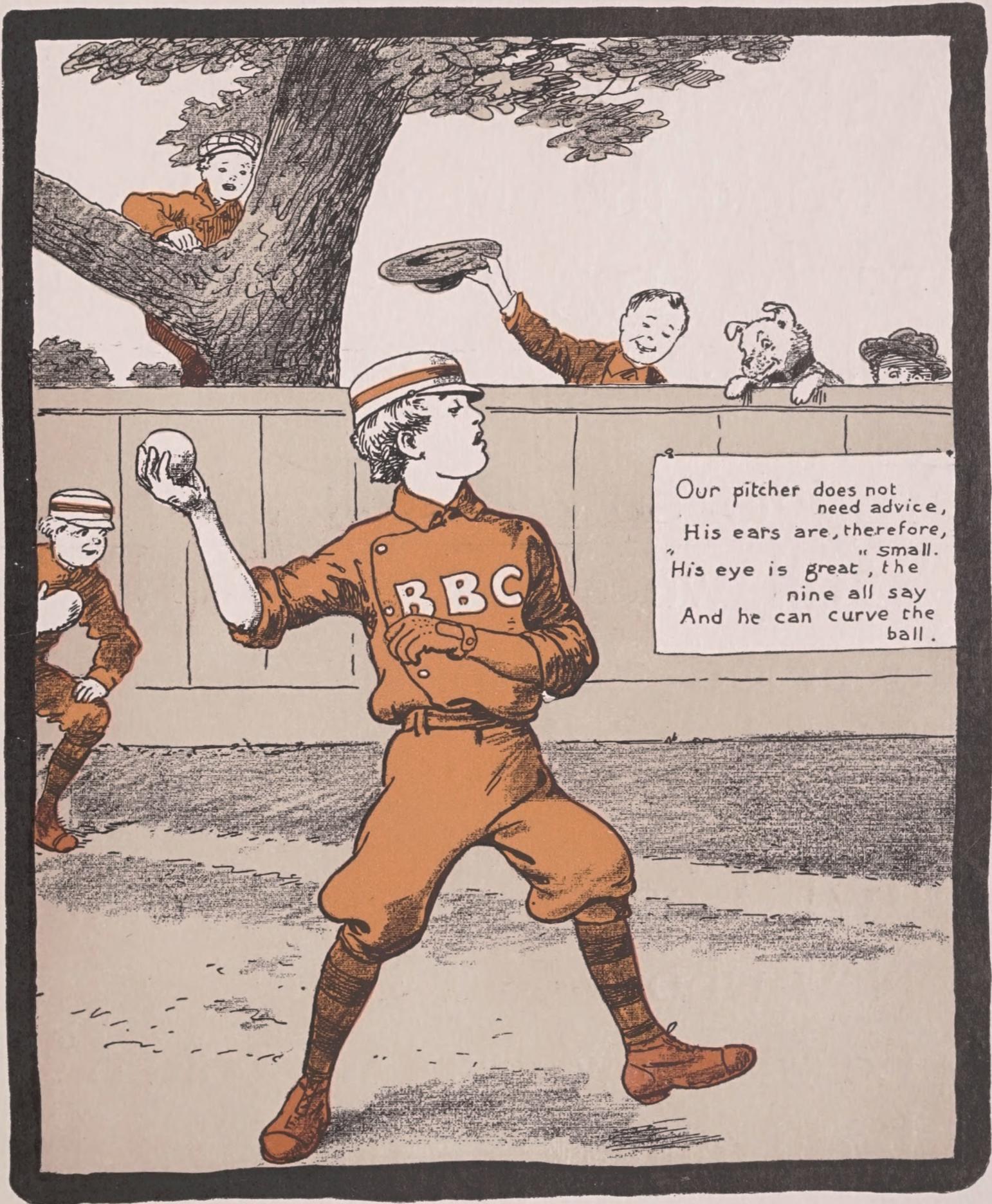


“Little pitchers have big ears.”



“We fellows here play  
ball,” said Ned,  
“You’d better b’lieve we do!  
Our pitcher’s ears are just  
as small  
As other people’s too!”

# Little pitchers have big ears ?



“Still waters run deep.”

“Ah! Still waters run deep,”  
A Said the owl to the frog,  
And the frog told the saying  
All over the bog.

Froggie saw a still puddle:  
“Still waters run deep!”  
He cried as he dived,  
But he fell in a heap.

“Ow! The puddle is shallow!  
Now who would suppose  
The wise owl was mistaken?  
I’ve bumped my poor nose!”

Still waters run deep ?



“A carpenter is known by  
his chips.”

If one is known by cat or dog,  
That cat or dog will  
show it.

If chips wag tails or purr  
or bark,  
I'm sure I do not know it.

I think a carpenter at work  
Would be surprised to see  
His chips rise up and bow  
to him.

Don't you agree with me?

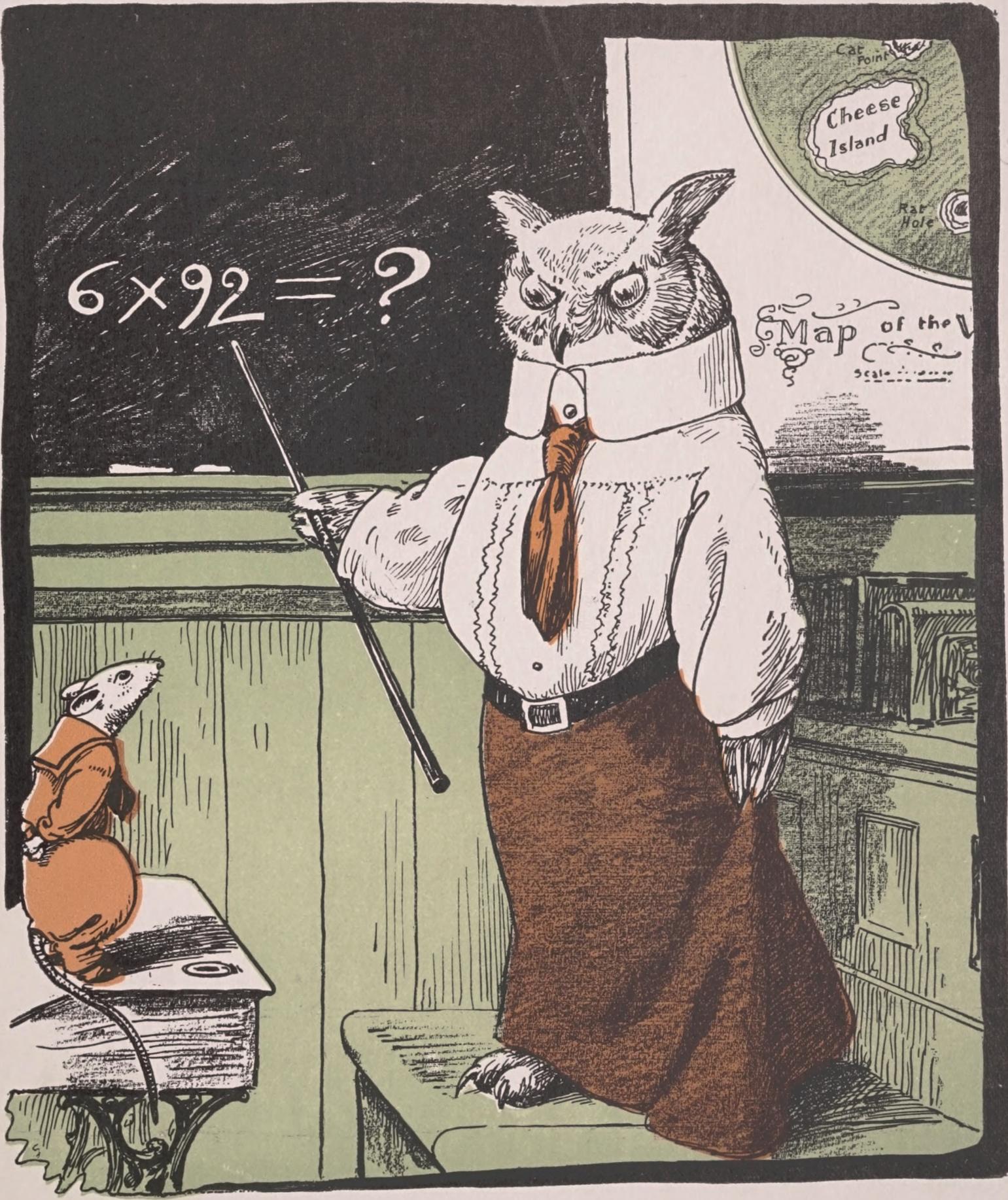
A carpenter is known by his chips?





A word to the wise is sufficient?

92  
6  
550



“Too many cooks spoil the broth.”

“A particular cook, still another good cook,  
Yes, one other good cook —  
that’s three,  
I’ll have made in a stew, and I  
hope three will do,”  
Said the cannibal king Jamboree.

When the broth was all done,  
“Why, what under the sun!”  
Said the cannibal, “What can we do?  
Now the broth is too thin! It is  
almost a sin,  
For the broth is now spoiled by too few!”

Too many cooks spoil the broth?



“Least said, soonest mended”

If little pigs behave like pigs,  
With manners rude and shocking,  
You'll find they will not mend  
their ways  
Without a lot of talking.

“Their table manners! Mer-  
cy me!

Such conduct will not do,”  
Said Mrs. Pig, “And they  
won't mend  
Just for a grunt or two.”

# Least said, soonest mended?



“Seeing is believing.”

We like to read the  
circus bills  
Upon the great high wall,  
But Jack and I are very  
wise,  
We can't believe them all.

Each circus, if the bills  
are true,  
Is certainly the best.  
If you believe one bill is  
true,  
How can you trust the rest?

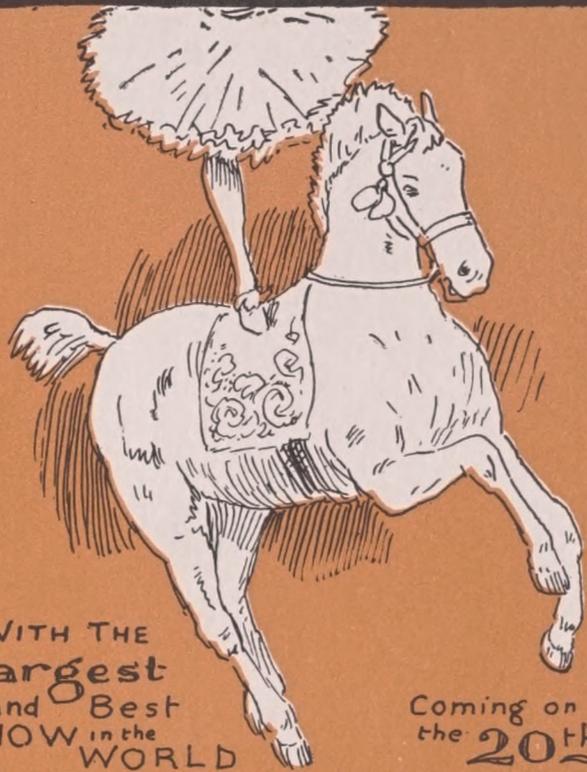
# Seeing is believing ?

**CUS**  
is the  
**BEST**  
and  
**BIGGEST**

Coming on the 10th



HERE ON THE 25th  
**WAIT**  
for  
**US**



WITH THE  
**Largest**  
and **Best**  
**SHOW** in the  
WORLD

Coming on  
the **20th**



**3 Rings**  
500 Animals

“Two heads are better than one”

When the hare and the pig had  
some pleasure to plan,  
They each found they had much  
better fun

If they planned it together and  
both of them said,

“Surely two heads are better than one!”

But the hare had the toothache, the  
pig got the mumps,

Then they cried, “Oh, just one  
head will do!

Just to think what we’d suffer if  
each had two heads!

Surely one head is better than two!”

Two heads are better than one?



“There is no place  
like home.”

There are forty-nine  
houses in Tenement Row  
And each house like the next  
one above and below,  
Like the corn on a cob or  
the teeth on a comb;  
None who live there can  
say there is no place like home.  
There's a cat at the Smiths,  
just as black, just as lean  
As the cat at the Browns,  
and these cats may be seen  
Both in yards they suspect  
are not theirs by good rights.  
How these poor puzzled pussies  
cry over it, nights!

There is no place  
like home?



“Foresight is better  
than hindsight.”



A pilgrim made very  
quick tracks

When an indian chased  
with an axe,

And said, "Foresight!  
Gadzooks!

Can't you tell, by the  
looks,

What we need is some  
eyes in our backs!"

# Foresight is better than hindsight?



“Better late than never

Old uncle Silas thought to try  
A game of football. Well,  
He hadn't played at all when  
young,

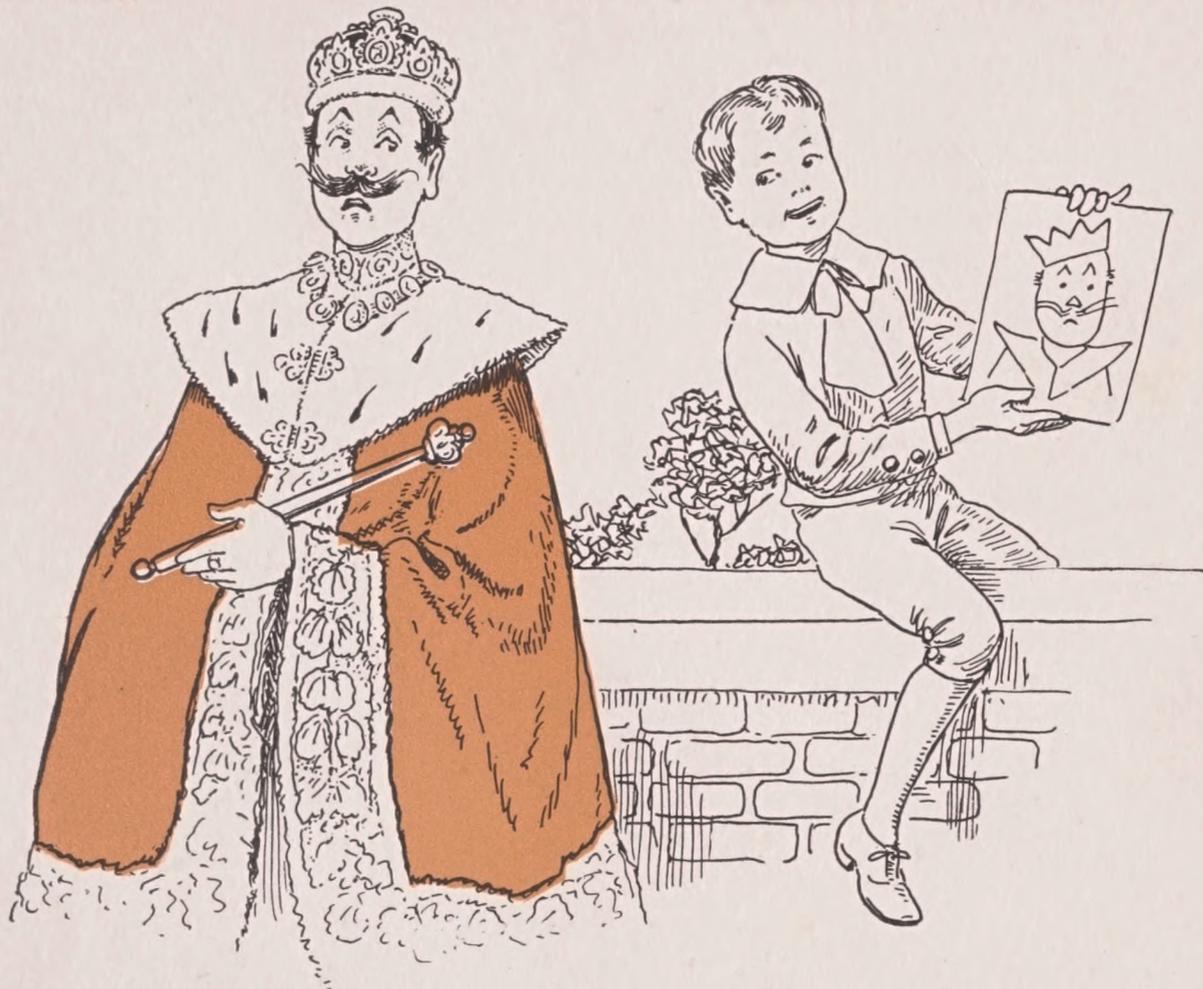
And this is what befell:  
They rustled him and hustled him  
And stood him on his head  
And bumped his nose and tore his clothes  
Until, at last, he fled.

“I never should have tried so late,  
I see,” said uncle Si,  
“I'd better never play at all  
Than late in life,” say I.

Better late than never?



“Familiarity breeds contempt.”



**T**he more I've seen of  
buzz saws  
And the more I've seen of bees,  
The less I wish to fondle  
Either one. Excuse me please!

# Familiarity breeds contempt?



“It takes two to make a quarrel.”

One day my tabby chanced to pass  
In front of our big looking-glass.

“What’s that?” she said, with  
much surprise,

And opened wide her yellow eyes:

“Another cat come here to stay!

Go home, you saucy thing I say!”

She yowled and tried to

scratch that cat,

Put up her back — she was so fat!

How ’shamed she looked, when

soon she knew

There was one cat, instead

of two!

It takes two to make a quarrel?



“A cat may look at a king.”



**I**t is seldom, very seldom  
That a cat may cross  
the sea,  
But our cats would be o-  
bliged to  
If they'd gaze on royalty.  
In our country are policemen  
With brass buttons, clubs  
and things  
Which a cat's allowed to  
gaze on.  
But she cannot look on  
kings.

# A cat may look at a king?



“Practice makes perfect.”

Well, if practice makes perfect,  
and so I have heard,  
Said the elephant soon I  
will sing like a bird.”

So the elephant practiced  
each day, without rest,  
“Mr. Dooley” and other  
songs, trying his best,

Yet the tigers all tittered  
and said, “It’s no use!  
Practice only will make him  
a perfect old goose.”

# Practice makes perfect ?



“Absence makes the heart  
grow fonder.”

Said Billy Boye to Tommy  
Boye,

“Let’s stay away from school.  
If absence makes folks love  
us more,

We’ll try to prove the rule.”

“Oh! don’t you, Bill,” said  
Tommy Boye,

I tried that very plan.  
It struck me then it didn’t  
work.”

“What struck you?” “Oh! rattan!”

Absence makes the heart  
grow fonder?



“Where there’s a  
will there’s a way.”



Once a very mad hat-  
ter said, “Hey!  
Truly, where there’s a  
will there’s a way;  
I will make a silk hat  
From the tail of a cat.”  
But the hat is not fin-  
ished, they say.

Where there's a  
will there's a way?



“Forbidden fruit is sweetest.”

Old farmer Jones is very wise,  
A sly chap too is he.

A sign, “ALL TRESPASSING FOR-  
BID,”

He tacked upon a tree,  
His only sour apple tree,  
And, hid in near by places,  
He liked to see folks steal  
from that,  
And then to watch their faces.

# Forbidden fruit is sweetest?



“Christmas comes but  
once a year.”



“**W**hat? Christmas comes  
but once a year?

That all depends upon  
How many Sunday schools  
you join,”

Said Alexander John.

“Each school must have  
its Christmas time

And presents on a tree.

I joined four Sunday schools  
last year,

And all remembered me.”

# Christmas comes but once a year?





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